

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 11 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8 and 11 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious in view of Abe et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,284,670 (hereinafter "Abe"). Claims 6 and 7 are amended herein to recite features indicated allowable in the attendant statement of reasons for allowable subject matter. Accordingly the rejection has been overcome and claims 6-8 and 11 should be allowable as to the noted ground for rejection.

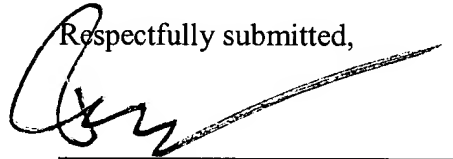
Claims 6-8 and 11 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious in view of JP 11-354816 for the reasons set forth in connection with Abe. Claims 6 and 7 are amended herein to recite features indicated allowable in the attendant statement of reasons for allowable subject matter. Accordingly the rejection has been overcome and claims 6-8 and 11 should be allowable as to the noted ground for rejection.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. L. Scott, II', written over a horizontal line.

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